

Brecknock Rural District Council

Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1959

Officials. Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R. George, M.R.C.S.,
Guildhall, Brecon. L.R.C.P.,
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Chief Public Health Inspector..W.J. Rees,
Sanitary Inspector's
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspector's Examination Joint Board; Meat and Other Foods
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Diploma of
the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

Additional Public Health Inspector..R. Taylor, M.P.H.I.A.,
M.R.I.P.H.H.





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Brecknock Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1959

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Brecknock Rural District during the year 1959.

In this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility with regard to public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all matters specifically requested in Circular 1/60(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area. 189,532 acres.

The Rural District of Brecknock, which has an area of 189,532 acres is a large district in the County of Breconshire. It is situated mainly in the northern part of the County and consists of rather more than one third of the total size of the County.

The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the inhabitants. It contains a new National Park consisting of the Brecon Beacons and surrounding countryside. There are no large towns in the area and the administrative offices are situated in the Borough of Brecon.

Population. Census 1931.....8302.
Census 1951.....7430.
Estimated Mid-summer 1959.....7410.

The Registrar General's estimated population for each of the last ten years are shown below.

1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959.

7178. 7338. 7432. 7464. 7480. 7490. 7440. 7430. 7410. 7410.

The population dropped between the last two census years but during the last ten years again shows a general slight tendency to rise. There is a slight drop over the last four years.

Inhabited houses. The number of inhabited houses was 2333 giving an average number of persons per house of 3.1

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	61	58	119	
Illegitimate	4	2	6	
	65	60	125	16.7

The corrected birthrate was 19.2

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16.5

The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and also much higher than the district deathrate, which was a very satisfactory feature.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered during the year was six.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	62	29	91	12.2

The corrected deathrate was 11.8

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.6

The district rate was therefore higher than the national average but lower than the district birthrate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live & still births</u>
1.	2.	3.		23.4

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 20.7
The district rate was therefore higher than the national average.

Total live and still births.....128.

Infant Deaths. There was one death registered during the year in a
child of under one year of age.

Total Mortality Rate.....	8.0
Legitimate Mortality Rate.....	8.3
Illegitimate Mortality Rate.....	0
Neo-natal mortality rate.....	8.3
Early neo-natal mortality rate.....	0
Peri-natal mortality rate.....	23.4

The infantile mortality rate for the whole of England and Wales was 22.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births.....4.8%

Maternal Mortality. No deaths could be attributed to childbirth during
the year which was extremely satisfactory.

Maternal Mortality Rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious Disease.....	Nil.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Other forms tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Cancer.....	10.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....62. Females.....29

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	0.....	1.
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	3.....	0.
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0.....	2.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	4.....	0.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	9.....	10.
Coronary disease.....	15.....	2.
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1.....	0.
Other heart disease.....	8.....	8.
Other circulatory disease.....	4.....	1.
Influenza.....	3.....	1.
Pneumonia.....	1.....	0.
Nephritis.....	2.....	0.
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	5.....	0.
Congenital malformations.....	1.....	1.
Other causes.....	0.....	3.
Motor Vehicle accidents.....	2.....	0.
Other accidents.....	1.....	0.
Suicide.....	3.....	0.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged
List of Causes of Deaths.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in your Public Health
Officers during the year. Mr.W.J.Rees remained
as your Chief Public Health Inspector and Mr.R.Taylor as your Additional
Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea Aberystwyth and Brecon. Water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling including milk examined for the presence of tuberculosis was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Nursing Facilities etc. The County Council are responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities, home nursing, maternity and child welfare, immunisation, and the treatment of minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of patients are also treated in the large Hospitals situated in Cardiff and Swansea.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The South-East Breconshire Water Board (formed by this Council and three neighbouring authorities), came into operation on 1st. April 1959. This Board has, now taken over all the public water supplies in the District.

During the year 47 water samples were taken from private supplies and 17 samples from public supplies - all for bacteriological tests.

Of the samples taken from private supplies 20 were satisfactory, 25 were unsatisfactory and 2 were doubtful. The results of the samples from public supplies were 15 satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory.

The South-East Breconshire Water Board were informed with regard to the last 2 unsatisfactory results in order that remedial measures could be taken.

Where necessary the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and the owners of the private supplies were advised of the analysis. Number of inspection visits.....75.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes for the Villages of Llanfilo and Llanfihangel-Nantbran were commenced during 1959, and it was hoped to have them completed before the end of the year. However, owing to unforeseen circumstances it was impossible to do so and it is now hoped to have them in working order early in 1960.

Properties Connected to Main Drainage.

The response of owners to arrange for their properties to be connected to the Council's new sewers is still satisfactory. During 1959 the following number of properties were provided with main drainage.

Llanfihangel Nantbran	9
Cray	0
Llanddew	0
Llanfrynach	0
Llangorse	0
Llan-Talylllyn	0
Pencelli	0
Pennorth & Scethrog	0
Sennybridge	0
Talybont-on-Usk	1
Trecastle	3
Llanfilo	4

These additional figures brought the total at the end of the year to:-

Llanfihangel Nantbran	9
Cray	18
Llanddew	27
Llanfrynach	50
Llangorse	61
Llan-Talyllyn	6
Pencelli	10
Pennorth & Scethrog	20
Sennybridge	271
Talybont-on-Usk	85
Trecastle	73
Llanfilo	4
Total	<u>634</u>

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspectors.....92.
 Number of visits made by Public Health Inspectors to sewage works....59.
 Number of effluent samples taken.....18.
 Of these 18 samples only 8 were satisfactory.Improvements were therefore made to the defective sewage works.

Public Cleansing.The refuse collection service,which is still being carried out by direct labour under the Supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector,was extended during the year to include new housing sites at Llandefalle and Llanfihangel Nantbran.
 The refuse lorry covered 12,272 miles during which 624 loads were collected weighing a total of 1248 tons.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Chief Public Health Inspector,Mr.W.J.Rees,and the additional Public Health Inspector, Mr.R.Taylor.

Nuisances.
 Number of complaints received.....102.
 Number of complaints investigated.....102.
 Number of premises inspected.....102.
 Number of premises revisited.....33.
 Number of preliminary notices served.....10.
 for (a) Structural defects.....7.
 (b) Sanitary defects.....3.
 Number of Statutory Notices served.....1.

Houses let in Lodgings.It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act,1936.

Offensive Trades.There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses.There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.
 Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....42.
 Number of defects found and remedied.....5.
 Number of notices served.....5.

Shops.
 Number of inspections made.....29.

Tents,Vans and Sheds.
 Number of visits made.....53.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D.D.T.preparations which have been found to be very successful.
 No premises were found infested during the year.

Rodent Control. Mr.E.Davies whom the Council had appointed as a full-time rodent operator,was transferred as a loader on the refuse lorry and Mr.R.Hardwick has replaced him as rodent operator. However,the latter is not,as yet,wholly employed on this work.Details of of the work carried out during the year is as follows:-

Number of premises inspected.....	32.
Number of premises found infested.....	30.
Number of agricultural premises inspected.....	21.
Number of agricultural premises found infested.....	18.
Total number of premises treated by rodent operator.....	21.
Total number of premises treated by occupier.....	9.

Sewers were treated during the year in the neighbourhood of infested houses.The work of rodent destruction on farms in the rural district is now the responsibility of the Council.

Section 4.Housing.

The following details show the position as it was at the end of the year:-

Number of houses built by Council during the year.....	18.
(Llandefalle - 8: Llangorse O.P.B. - 4: Talyllyn - 6)	
Number of houses built by private enterprise during the year.....	6.
Number of inspections under the Housing Act.....	94.
Number of notices served.....	Nil.

Improvement Grants(Discretionary) - Housing Act,1949.

Sixteen applications for discretionary improvement grants were made and all were approved and grants made.

Improvement Grants(Standard) - House Purchase & Housing Act,1959.

This is a new Act under which owners can obtain half the cost, up to a maximum of £155, of installing five basic improvements in a house i.e. a bath, a wash-hand basin, a water closet, a hot water system and a food store.

Five applications for this grant have been received and approved since the Act was introduced.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932.

The district is being inspected regularly and,as and when the occasion necessitates,representation is made to the Council with a view to:-

- (a) Service of notices requiring the execution of works, or
- (b) The making of demolition or closing orders.

Demolition Orders made.....	5
Undertakings accepted.....	5.
Properties demolished.....	5.
Closing Orders served.....	0.
Properties closed.....	2.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The number of food premises in the area was as follows:-

Clubs.....	1.
Retailers.....	16.
Ice Cream retailers.....	9.
Bakers.....	1.
Cafes.....	6.
Hotels where meals are served.....	12.

On the whole it can be said that the general standard of cleanliness observed was satisfactory. On no occasion has it been found necessary to serve a notice on any person engaged in the food trade.

There was no educational activity in connection with food in the district during the year but in the normal course of their duties the Public Health Inspectors, in their discussions with persons engaged in the food trade, emphasised the importance of the need for the highest standard of hygienic principle in the preparation and sale of foodstuffs to the public.

School Canteens.

Visits were made to and inspections made of school canteens and dining rooms. The attention of the Brecknockshire Education Committee was drawn to those premises which did not come up to the required standard by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, with a request that such improvements as were necessary be carried out.

Meat Inspection.

Number of registered slaughterhouses in area.....1.
Number of inspections made to slaughterhouses.....102.

Number of various animals inspected.

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
122	708	18	159

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	<u>Cattle</u> excluding cows	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u> and Lambs	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Horses</u>
Number killed	41	81	18	708	159	-
Number inspected	41	81	18	708	159	-
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis & cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	13	-	28	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	19.5%	16%	-	3.9%	0.6%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	5.	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	-	-	-	-	3.1%	-

Cysticercis. No cases discovered.

All condemned meat from the Slaughterhouse is collected by a fertiliser making firm from Newport.

Disposal of Condemned Food. All condemned foodstuffs excluding meat are disposed of by burying in one of the Council's refuse disposal sites. During the year 5 tins of ham were condemned, with a total weight of 47 lbs.

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Milk. Considerable changes in the legislature governing the production of milk occurred by the coming into operation on October 1st. 1949 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944. Briefly under this Act the supervision of milk production on farms now passes to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Local Authorities are left with the control of distributors.

Number of cowsheds and dairies inspected.....	21.
Number of samples taken during the year.....	21.
Number of samples satisfactory.....	21.
Number of samples unsatisfactory.....	0.

Four of the above were examined for the presence of tuberculosis and brucella abortus, with negative results.

The result of all these samples were sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry at Brecon.

Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses).

Number of inspections made..... Nil.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made..... 24.
Number of samples taken..... 24.
All these samples were reported as satisfactory.
There are 9 premises registered for the sale of ice cream.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of inspections made..... Nil.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops. No premises are registered in the area for the sale of fried fish. Fish sold retail from motor vans is frequently inspected.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1 case
Scarlet Fever.....	1 case
Paratyphoid B.....	1 case
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia.....	1 case
Measles.....	23 cases
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	1 case
Whooping Cough.....	5 cases

As shown above no severe epidemic occurred during the year. All cases were nursed at home with the exception of the cases of paratyphoid B and acute poliomyelitis which were removed to hospital. The cases of measles occurred in the Battle and Aberyseir districts whilst the whooping coughs were in Trecastle. The paratyphoid B case was thought to be caused by contact with a carrier remaining in the district after the epidemic of 1952.

No deaths were caused by any of the above infectious diseases.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....	40.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....	9.

Number of cases removed from register

(a) Deaths.....0.

(b) Left district.....3.

(c) Disease arrested.....2.

Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....44.

Of the 9 new cases on register,2 were trasfers from other districts and 2 were old cases who had returned to district.

The number of cases notified in recent years is shown below:-

1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.
11.	13.	4.	3.	5.	13.	5.	7.	5.	9.

Diphtheria Immunisation.As a result of the new Health Act,the County Council are responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during the year.

It is pleasing to see that incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign however,remains the same:to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday.It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon an adequate level of immunisation being maintained.If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1959 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BRECKNOCK IN THE COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.-INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect ions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i.Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	8	-	-
ii.Factories not included in(i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	15	18	-	-
iii.Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority(excluding out-workers' premises	-	-	-	-
Total	19	26	-	-

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2.- Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanlinessSl.	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a)Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b)Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c)Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

There was no out-work done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,

Medical Officer of Health

